

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE ALCOA HIGH SCHOOL TORNADOES FOOTBALL TEAM

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 13, 2000

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, on December 1st of this year, the Alcoa High School Tornadoes football team finished their season with a perfect 15-0 record, and won the Class 2A state championship with a 27-20 victory over Union City High School at this year's championship game in Murfreesboro, TN.

This fairytale season came to a close as the Tornadoes stopped a Union City touchdown attempt, in the final seconds, at the goal line to win the championship. This is the school's fifth championship football season, and they have 17 starters returning for the 2001-2002 season next fall.

When I spoke at the celebration event at the Alcoa High School football field this past Saturday, I told the story of former Baltimore Orioles' third baseman Brooks Robinson, a Hall of Famer. Robinson once said that there were only a few in the Hall of Fame who got there mostly on superior athletic ability. Robinson said that the other 600 or so got there because of drive, determination, discipline, and desire. These players possess the same qualities, both individually and collectively as a team.

Released this week, The Associated Press Class 2A All-State football team included 7 members from the Alcoa Tornadoes. "It was a pleasant surprise to have that many kids on the team," Alcoa Head Coach Scott Meadows said, "but I think every one of them deserves it."

Mr. Speaker, I ask my fellow colleagues to join me in congratulating Head Coach Scott Meadows and the Alcoa High School Tornadoes for their glorious victory. I also submit into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD the following news articles printed in the Knoxville News Sentinel. The team's leadership, strength, and determination should be recognized by all, and their sportsmanship and dedication are at a level that should be followed by every high school team in this Country.

[From the News-Sentinel, Dec. 10, 2000]

ALCOA HONORS ITS 15-0 STATE FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS

(By Stan DeLozier)

ALCOA.—Alcoa High School principal Kevin Smith said he didn't want to put anybody on the spot, but it would be no surprise if he is helping celebrate another state championship a year from now.

His optimism is not without reason.

"We have 17 starters back," coach Scott Meadows said, "nine on offense and eight on defense."

Several hundred Tornadoes' fans turned out Saturday afternoon to celebrate the school's fifth football championship season, completed Dec. 1 in Murfreesboro with a 27-20 squeaker over Union City. Alcoa finished the season with a 15-0 record.

The team featured seven All-Staters. Four of them—Michael George, Ben Love, Gregory Martin and David Hill—return next fall.

Aside from the championship game, which ended with a goal-line stand with 13 seconds to play, only Loudon among Class 2A opponents played the Tornadoes tough. Alcoa won 21-14 during the regular season and again 26-2 in the playoffs. However, the Redskins are moving up to Class 3A next season.

Heritage a 5A school, lost to Alcoa 17-13.

During the celebration at Alcoa's Goddard Field, George (the Tornadoes' quarterback) and linebacker Daniel Pierce were presented state championship game balls.

Although George connected on 13-of-23 passes for 245 yards, Union City running back Mario McElrath was chosen most valuable offensive player in the championship game.

Alcoa athletic director Rob Daugherty was cheered when he said, "I think we ought to demand a recount."

Pierce teamed with Hill in stuffing McElrath inches from the goal on Union City's last offensive play.

U.S. Rep. Jimmy Duncan, who was among the dignitaries attending the celebration, said the team's success reminded him of a story told by former Baltimore Orioles' third baseman Brooks Robinson, a Hall of Famer. Robinson mentioned there were a few in the Hall of Fame who got there mostly on superior athletic ability.

"Robinson said the other 600 or so got there because of their drive, willingness to work and dedication," Duncan said. "This team has the same qualities."

[The Knoxville News-Sentinel, Dec. 9, 2000]

ALCOA DOMINATES 2A ALL-STATE

A state championship was the goal all along for the Alcoa High School football team. The by-product this week is respect.

The Tornadoes, ranked No. 2 most of the season, placed seven players on The Associated Press Class 2A All-State football team released this week.

Alcoa completed its 2000 season with a 15-0 record and a state title with last week's 27-20 victory against previously unbeaten Union City. The 2A team is like a who's who of Alcoa and area players.

"The players went out every week talking about getting respect," Alcoa coach Scott Meadows said. "I think with seven first-team All-State players, they can say they've earned it."

"It was a pleasant surprise to have that many kids on the team, but I think every one of them deserves it."

The Tornadoes are represented by Michael George (quarterback), Ben Love (offensive lineman), James Rainer (all-purpose), Gregory Martin (defensive lineman), Tremayne Garner (linebacker), Jonathan Meschendorf (defensive back) and David Hill (punter).

Union City placed four players on the squad, led by Mr. Football winner Mario McElrath.

Austin-East defensive tackle Stephen Booker also earned All-State honors. The 6-foot-2, 295-pound junior was the Roadrunners' primary run-stopping force in the middle.

David Roncska of Loudon, the Mr. Football winner at linebacker, was the other area All-State selection.

In Division II, Bryan White of Webb and Nick Wilson of Catholic earned All-State.

White led the Spartans in tackles and won the Division II—Small Mr. Football Lineman award. Wilson led Knoxville in receiving with 71 catches for 1,399 yards and 10 TDs.

In Class 1A, Sunbright placed three players on the team after running through the regular season unbeaten. Quarterback Drew Morgan made it as an all-purpose athlete. Averil Chaney made it as an offensive lineman and Wes Jones as a linebacker.

Steven Sears of Midway also made it as a linebacker.

A TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE LADY AND GENTLEMEN WHO SERVED THE PEOPLE OF GUAM AS MAYORS

HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 13, 2000

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, as elected public officials, we know the hard work and the personal sacrifices it takes to earn the trust and keep the mandate of our constituencies. In my home island of Guam, there are no elected officials who are closer to their constituencies, or work harder in their behalf, even after an election, than our village Mayors. Guam is a small place with a relatively small population, and our people are not far removed from their elected officials—myself included. This intimacy, and the expectation of direct and immediate access, is especially true of our Mayors.

In a few weeks, seven of Guam's village Mayors will leave office, after having served the residents of their respective villages cumulatively for many, many years. Some have opted for retirement; others have had to accept that option. All have served with distinction; all have significant records of accomplishment; all have a deep and abiding love for their people; and all are proud servants of Guam. I would like to take this occasion to commend the Honorable Rossana Diwa San Miguel, the Mayor of Chalan Pago and Ordot; the Honorable Jose Aguilo Rivera, the Mayor of Dededo; the Honorable Luis San Nicolas Herrero, the Mayor of Tamuning; the Honorable Raymond Sablan Laguana, the Mayor of Barrigada; the Honorable Jesse Leon Guerrero Perez, the Mayor of Inarajan; the Honorable Jesus A. Aquiningoc, the Mayor of Umatac; and the Honorable Vicente S. Taitague, the Mayor of Talofofo, who have unselfishly contributed years of valuable service to their respective home villages and to the island of Guam.

Chalan Pago/Ordot Mayor Rossana San Miguel, who has the distinction of being named Outstanding Woman of the Year by the Soroptimist International of the Marianas, remains an advocate for the rights of women, children and families, and for an improved quality of life for the people of Ordot and Chalan Pago. She was an active community member long before her election as Mayor in

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

1995. A product of Guam's public schools and the University of Guam, Mayor San Miguel is the daughter of Juan Atoigue and Esperanza Diwa San Miguel, and the loving mother of Esperanza, Michelle and Samantha. Mayor San Miguel's terms in office resulted in the paving, resurfacing and naming of numerous streets in the villages of Chalan Pago and Ordod. Her effort and leadership made the streets of Chalan Pago and Ordod safer by having numerous power poles and street lights installed, as well as the construction of bus shelters for the children of her village.

With a population of more than 40,000, the Municipality of Dededo is Guam's largest village. It might well qualify as a city rather than a village. The Honorable Jose Aguilo Rivera has served the people of Dededo for 16 years after having served as a federal civil servant from 1947 until his retirement as Assistant Fire Chief in 1981. First elected as Assistant Village Commissioner in 1984 and then as Mayor in 1989. During his tenure, the village of Dededo grew steadily and prospered. Mayor Rivera worked hard and lobbied hard for the infrastructure and capitol improvements necessary to keep up with the rapid growth and development of his village. Of the eight children born to the late Jose Ulloa Rivera and the late Carmen Aguilo Rivera, Mayor Rivera was an only son. He and his wife, the former June Santos Shimizu, are the proud parents of five children, nine grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

INDIA OBSERVES CEASE-FIRE IN KASHMIR

HON. ROBERT WEXLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 13, 2000

Mr. WEXLER. Mr. Speaker, on November 19th, the Government of India announced a one-month unilateral cease-fire in Kashmir. India's Prime Minister, Atal Behari Vajpayee, ordered all Indian security forces to cease operations in Kashmir during the month of Ramadan, the Muslim period of fasting and prayer. An article in the New York Times on November 20th described India's action as "a rare, hopeful step toward ending more than a decade of violence in Kashmir." Prime Minister Vajpayee stated, "I hope that our gesture will be fully appreciated and all violence and infiltration across the Line of Control and the international border will cease and peace prevail."

Regrettably, India's courageous step for peace was immediately rejected by the four major Muslim guerrilla groups that have been battling since 1989 to forcibly tear the state of Jammu and Kashmir away from India.

Still, despite the snubs from the militant leaders, India is making good on its cease-fire offer. Since the beginning of Ramadan at sundown on Sunday, November 26, Indian security forces have been under orders to conduct no operations against the guerrilla groups, and to react with force only if they are attacked.

Unfortunately, it didn't take long for an attack to come. According to an account in the November 28 edition of The Washington Post, militants used a land mine to blow up an Indian army truck, killing three soldiers. There

was additional violence as guerrillas tried to infiltrate into India's territory, across the Line of Control from Pakistani-held areas. These border incursions are clearly an attempt by the militants to provide a response from India, thereby undermining the cease-fire. India has a right to defend its territory, and these defensive actions are consistent with the cease-fire.

There are indications that the Kashmiri people welcome the cease-fire, despite the threats from the militants. According to a November 27 article in The Washington Post, entitled "Kashmiris Hopeful as Truce Begins":

"The cease-fire is a good thing for us, but unfortunately the militants do not agree," said Nazir Ahmed, 30, a mason in the village of Wathura, which was reduced to rubble early this month during a clash between rebels and security forces. "I'm afraid there will be more killings, because one side wants to prove a point."

In addition, there have been warning signs that some rebel groups have no intention of honoring the truce, which Vajpayee announced Nov. 19. Since then, there have been two attacks on civilians, including the killing of five Sikh and Hindu truck drivers on a Kashmiri highway.

There has been speculation that the attacks were intended to drive a wedge between Muslims and people of other faiths in Kashmir at an especially sensitive moment, thus undermining the cease-fire.

Such attacks must be condemned, in the name of human rights and fundamental decency. As to the broader issue of India's brave action, I urge the U.S. Government to express in the strongest terms our strong support for the difficult step for peace that India has taken.

EXPRESSING SORROW OF THE HOUSE AT THE DEATH OF THE HONORABLE JULIAN C. DIXON, MEMBER OF CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

SPEECH OF

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2000

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the memory of the Honorable JULIAN C. DIXON. JULIAN was a steady force in the Congress for more than twenty years.

Before entering the House in 1979, JULIAN served six years in the California State Assembly. While there, he won the favor of his colleagues and was Chairman of the Assembly Democratic Caucus.

I became aware of JULIAN through his efforts to secure federal funds for the people of California. For example, he was instrumental in federal efforts to mitigate the impact of the 1992 civil disturbance by introducing a dire emergency supplemental appropriations bill to help businesses and families hurt by the riots. Seeking to better serve his constituents, JULIAN served four two-year terms on the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. Of particular interest to his constituents, JULIAN focused attention on the CIA-crack cocaine connection. He was the highest ranking Democrat.

While a member of the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee, JULIAN advocated programs important to the defense/aerospace industrial base in California. In addition, he secured years of funding for educational programs, including a mathematics and technology enrichment program.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me in saluting a great American, a great Congressman and a great human being—JULIAN C. DIXON.

THE NATIONAL CAMPAIGN FOR HEARING HEALTH

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 13, 2000

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, today I support the National Campaign for Hearing Health. The campaign was launched a year and a half ago by the Deafness Research Foundation to put hearing health on the national agenda. With 28 million Americans suffering from hearing loss—from newborns to senior citizens—they are committed to promoting research, prevention, detection and intervention that will ensure that every American has the potential to lead a hearing life.

Working with the campaign, I am pleased to announce the recent formation of the first-ever Congressional Hearing Health Caucus. The caucus is a bipartisan group of congressional Members committed to the study and support of hearing health issues. Caucus co-chairs include myself, Representatives JIM WALSH, CAROLYN MCCARTHY, and JIM RYUN, who knows first-hand the impact of hearing loss. We are greatly interested in these vital issues that affect so many Americans' health and well-being.

While the increase in the availability of newborn hearing tests represents tremendous progress—we all realize that screening is just the first step. We must begin to look to the future and prepare for the time when 100 percent of newborns are screened at birth. We must ensure that, once a baby's hearing loss is detected, all parents have access to the appropriate interventions—be they digital hearing aids or cochlear implants—regardless of their economic status.

Block grant funding provided to the states through last spring's Walsh bill—also known as the "Newborn Infant Hearing Screening and Intervention Act" is also expected to be a catalyst to advance newborn screening and intervention programs through the states. But it too is only a beginning.

Once a baby's hearing impairment is identified, early intervention with either hearing aids or a cochlear implant is critical. Somewhere between 6 and 24 months, a "hearing impaired child" brain starts to shut down that part that processes speech and language. Every hour, two babies in America suffer irreversible damage to their brain's ability to process speech and language. Every hour, two babies cross that 24 month critical window without the hearing assistance they need.

The issue of funding is one that must be addressed. Today, the campaign is releasing its Medicaid Reimbursement State Report Card—to examine state-by-state the levels of reimbursement provided to low-income families for cochlear implants—one of the new technologies available for hearing impaired children and adults.